

# REACHING HIGHER

*Strategic Initiatives for Higher Education in Indiana*



## THE REALITY:

To thrive as a state and as individuals, all Hoosiers will need to achieve a depth and breadth of education never seen in the state's history.



### Economic

- The U.S. ranks 10th among industrialized nations in college completion rates – down from first.
- Indiana ranks 40th in the nation in the average personal income of its residents.
- Manufacturing employment in Indiana has dropped by 35 percent since 2000.
- Nearly two-thirds of all new jobs require at least some postsecondary education.



### Preparation

- A quarter of all recent high school graduates need remediation when they enter a public college.
- More than two-thirds of community college students require remediation.
- Less than 10 percent of Hoosier college students who are placed in remedial courses graduate on time.



### Affordability

- Indiana college tuition and fees have grown by nearly 300 percent since 1990.
- Indiana's college debt load ranks 15th highest in the country.
- Nearly two-thirds of Hoosiers graduate with college debt — and those who do not graduate are 10 times more likely to default on their college loans.



### Completion

- Only a third of college freshmen earn a degree on-time. Just over half graduate within six years.
- Indiana ranks 42nd in the nation in the proportion of adults with a postsecondary credential.
- Indiana must produce at least 10,000 more Bachelor's degrees each year and increase Associate degrees by 50 percent to keep pace with the world.

For every

**100 Indiana 9th Graders**



**82 graduate from high school**



**52 students enter college**



**35 are still enrolled sophomore year**



**26 graduate within six years**



INDIANA COMMISSION  
for  
HIGHER EDUCATION

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education is a fourteen-member public body created in 1971 to plan and coordinate Indiana's state-supported system of colleges and universities. Learn more at [www.che.in.gov](http://www.che.in.gov).

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In June 2007, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education unanimously adopted *Reaching Higher: Strategic Directions for Indiana*. Developed through research and discussions with Indiana's higher education, legislative, business and community leaders, *Reaching Higher* outlines a set of aspirations and specific goals that, taken together, will ensure that Indiana has the higher education system it needs and its citizens deserve.

In June 2008, the Commission approved *Reaching Higher: Strategic Initiatives for Higher Education in Indiana*, which translated the goals detailed in *Strategic Directions* into action items in six key areas:

- Moving from college access to degree success
- Preparing K-12 teachers, school leaders and students for college success
- Ensuring that college is affordable
- Focusing the role of the community colleges
- Strengthening Indiana's major research universities
- Embracing accountability

## THE RESPONSE:

### Indiana will...



#### Preparation

- Increase the proportion of Indiana high school graduates earning Core 40 with Academic (or Technical) Honors to 50 percent by 2015.
- Reduce the level of remediation provided at four-year college campuses to not more than 10 percent of students by 2015.



#### Affordability

- Rank as the most affordable among peer states by 2015.
- Rank in the top 10 states for low-income student college participation by 2015.



#### Completion

- Produce the equivalent of 10,000 additional Bachelor's degrees per year through 2025.
- Increase the number of Associate degrees and certificates earned and transferred to four-year colleges by 50 percent by 2015.
- Rank in the top 10 states at each point of the education pipeline by 2015.
- Rank in the top 10 states for on-time and minority graduation rates by 2015.



#### Economic

- Rank as the most productive (degree production, efficiency) among the Lumina Foundation for Education's productivity-grant states by 2015.
- Rank in the top half of all Midwestern states in research and development by 2015.



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